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1
                 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
 2
                 FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA
3
     EQULLA M. BROTHERS, as the Personal
     Representative and Administratix of
     The Estate of Daryl Clinton, Deceased)
 4
 5
          Plaintiff,
 6
     -vs-
                                             No. 5:2021-cv-418
 7
     (1) TOMMIE JOHNSON III, in his
     official capacity as Oklahoma County )
     Sheriff,
 8
 9
          Defendant.
1.0
11
                         CERTIFIED COPY
12
                DEPOSITION OF CHRISTOPHER HENDERSHOTT
13
14
                   TAKEN ON BEHALF OF THE PLAINTIFF
15
                          IN NORMAN, OKLAHOMA
16
17
                          ON MARCH 15, 2023
18
                       COMMENCING AT 2:02 P.M.
19
20
21
22
                            INSTASCRIPT, LLC
                          125 PARK AVENUE, LL
23
                    OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA 73102
                             (405) 605-6880
                         www.instascript.net
24
25
               REPORTED BY: LORI JOHNSTON HARSTAD, CSR
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1 APPEARA	N C E S	2 1	STIPULATIONS Page 4
2 FOR THE PLAINTIFF:		2	
3 Geoffrey Tabor		3	It is hereby stipulated and agreed by and between
Attorney at Law Madison Smith		4	the parties hereto, through their respective attorneys,
Legal Intern 5 Ward & Glass, LLP		5	that the deposition of Christopher Hendershott may be taken
1601 36th Avenue	· NW		on behalf of the Plaintiff on March 15, 2023, in Norman,
Norman, OK 7307 7 geoffrey@wardgla			Oklahoma, by Lori Johnston Harstad, Certified Shorthand
8 FOR THE DEFENDANT:	33idW.com		
		8	,
9 Rodney J. Heggy Assistant District /	Attorney	-	subpoena.
320 Robert S. Ker	ct Attorney-Oklahoma County r	10	It is further stipulated and agreed by and between
Suite 505 Oklahoma City, Ol	K 73102	11	the parties hereto, through their respective attorneys,
12 Rod.heggy@oklah	omacounty.org	12	that all objections, except as to the form of the question
13		13	or the responsiveness of the answer, are reserved until the
14		14	time of trial, at which time they may be made with the same
15		15	force and effect as if made at the time of the taking of
16		16	this deposition.
17		17	
18		18	
19		19	*****
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21			
		21	
22		22	
23		23	
24		24	
25		25	
1 INI	D E X	3 1	Page 5 CHRISTOPHER HENDERSHOTT,
2 WIT	NESS	2	Of lawful age, having been first duly sworn, deposes and
3	PAGE:	3	says in reply to the questions propounded as follows:
Christopher Henders	hott:	4	DIRECT EXAMINATION
5 Direct Examination	by MR. TABOR 5:5	5	BY MR. TABOR:
EXH	IIBITS	6	Q Good afternoon, Mr. Hendershott. My name is
NO.: DESCRIPTION	l: PAGE:		Geoffrey Tabor. We have met. I will be primarily taking
For Deposition:			
18	gations Unit		your deposition today.
<sup>9</sup> investigative re Jennifer Peek, (	gations Unit port of Sergeant SSO-000117 to '139: In 15:13	9	Could you state your full, legal name for the
	n 15:13	- 1	record, please.
11		11	A Christopher Raymond Hendershott.
12		12	Q Okay. And have you ever given a deposition
13		13	like this before?
14		14	A No. I don't believe I have.
15		15	Q Okay. I am going to go over a few quick ground
16		16	rules and get you out of here sooner, hopefully. As you
I		- 1	see, you're under oath. There's a court reporter here
17		1 1 /	, ,
17 18			typing out everything we say. So to make sure we have a
18		18	typing out everything we say. So to make sure we have a
18 19		18 19	clean record, if you will let me finish what I am saying
18 19 20		18 19 20	clean record, if you will let me finish what I am saying and then you can start. I will do the same for you. It
18 19 20 21		18 19 20 21	clean record, if you will let me finish what I am saying and then you can start. I will do the same for you. It will be a little mechanical back and forth so we have a
18 19 20 21 22		18 19 20 21	clean record, if you will let me finish what I am saying and then you can start. I will do the same for you. It
18 19 20 21		18 19 20 21	clean record, if you will let me finish what I am saying and then you can start. I will do the same for you. It will be a little mechanical back and forth so we have a
18 19 20 21 22		18 19 20 21 22	clean record, if you will let me finish what I am saying and then you can start. I will do the same for you. It will be a little mechanical back and forth so we have a clean record, rather than us interrupting each other.

25 of work since December 31st of 2019?

Page 6 Page 8 verbal response, that's better than "uh-huh" or, like, a 1 Armed security and a reserve police officer. 2 shake of the head. If you do say something like that, 2 Q Okay. And who are you -- what department are that's okay. I will just ask you to clarify. I am not vou reserve for? 3 4 picking on you. A I was with Custer City. If you need a break, let me know. I just ask Okav. 6 that you fully answer the pending question before we go off I am no longer there. 7 the record, but I don't expect you to be here very long. Okay. Did you do anything -- I know we sent Are you suffering from any type of medical 8 you the subpoena for today. Have you done anything else to condition or under the influence of any substance that prepare for today's deposition, or just show up? 10 would affect you giving clear testimony today? A I looked on the Google and Googled the person's 10 11 11 name and read the News 9 article on them. 12 Q Okay. You're of sound mind today. Right? O Darvi Clinton? 12 13 Yes. 13 Yes. Q Could you just give me a really general 14 14 Q Have you talked to any of the other detention 15 overview, 30,000-foot overview, of your educational 15 officers? County personnel? 16 history? 16 17 A High school education plus CLEET. 17 O Let's talk about -- let's say as of 2019, when And where did you graduate from high school? 18 18 you were last at the jail, if you could give me a basic Ada High School. 19 19 hierarchy from the detention officers up to the sheriff on 20 Okay. Well, I didn't know that. You better 20 the jail operation side. Tell me how that worked. 21 look out. I am from Ardmore. A Oh, man. Well, detention officers were the 22 22 backbone of it. They sat there, they did all the work, 23 Q We've got a little rivalry brewing here. 23 You had corporals and sergeants also doing all the work. What year or years did you go to CLEET? 24 Corporals would be assigned to a floor, whatever floor the 25 A Went to CLEET in 2012, 25 shift commander wanted them to. Sergeant would be assigned Page 7 Page 9 Q 2012. Okay. 1 1 to a floor by administration, and they would be in charge Now, tell me -- let's kind of go from 2012 to 2 of that floor. Lieutenants would be in charge of a shift. 3 present. Tell me about your work history. After that, you had captains above us, who were A 2012, I was a sergeant with the Oklahoma County 4 in charge of the operations of the whole jail, and a major 5 Sheriff's Office in the detention center, assigned to the 5 above them. And then, after that, it would be the 6 undersheriff and sheriff that did whatever they did. 6 Disciplinary Grievance Unit. When I went to CLEET, did 7 that for about another year before I made lieutenant/shift Q Okay. Could you tell me kind of generally the 8 commander inside the Oklahoma County Detention Center. 8 nature and purpose of sight checks at the jail? Tell me I worked there until I retired December 31st. 9 about that. 10 2019, but I was also on the Dignitary Protection Unit. 10 A To make sure the inmates are physically okay 11 THE REPORTER: I'm sorry. Did you say 11 and to make sure the security of the facility is intact. 12 "dignitary protection"? 12 Q Okay, During your time with the jail, tell me 13 THE WITNESS: Dignitary Protection Unit, the 13 the training, if any, that you got regarding sight checks. 14 Oklahoma County Gang Intelligence Unit, and I was Crisis A Basically, in the classroom, they talk about 15 Intervention Team. 15 them. They tell you what to look for. You look for 16 Q (By Mr. Tabor) And so what time frame were you 16 movement, look for breathing, look for the color of the 17 at the Oklahoma County Jail? You were there until December 17 skin. You look at the jail surroundings, the cell 18 31st, 2019. 18 surroundings, make sure nothing is out of the ordinary. 19 When did you first start there? 19 Then when you got to the jail, when you're on your training Very first started there in November of 1995. 20 20 phase, you go -- you go around with someone. They just 21 O Okav. 21 tell you kind of what to look for and show you, and that's A And then I left County in 2003 or '4, 2004. 22 it. 22 23 April of 2004. Then I came back in August of 2007. 23 Q And when you talk about the training you're 24 Q Okay. And tell me what have you done in terms 24 describing just now in the classroom, is that CLEET?

25

No.

25

Q During your experience at the Oklahoma County

Page: 4 (10 - 13)

 $$\operatorname{Page}\ 12$$  ] Jail, is it your understanding that the detention staff, Page 10 Q Okay. A That's from the Oklahoma County Sheriff's 2 they were not expected to render medical care or make Office, their training division. 3 medical-related decisions for inmates? Right? Q Okay. And how often did you receive that type A Well, I wouldn't say that. I mean, if someone of training on sight checks? 5 is in need of immediate medical assistance, I expect that A Initial academy, and that's it. 6 the officer would intervene right then. Okay. And would you agree with me that a Q So you would say that --8 proper sight check is intended, in part, to ensure the A Whether it be, you know, performing CPR or at 9 safety and security of the inmates? 9 least calling for medical over the radio to get a nurse and 10 A Absolutely. 10 gurney in there. 11 Q And you would agree with me that it's accurate 11 Q So you would agree that there is some 12 to say that performing a reasonable sight check, the 12 involvement by the detention staff on medical issues, 13 detention staff has got to pay attention to the condition 13 depending on the situation? 14 of the inmate? 14 Yes. 15 A Yes. 15 And that may, depending on the situation, 16 Now, as a part of a reasonable sight check, 16 exceed just calling the medical staff. Right? 17 would you expect the detention staff to pay attention to 17 Yes. 18 the appearance and the behavior of the inmate? 18 Okay. And that -- that is your understanding 19 A Yes. 19 of the duties that are on the detention staff as a And as part of a reasonable sight check, would 20 20 lieutenant, former lieutenant working at the jail, 21 you expect detention staff to pay attention to what could 21 Correct? 22 be a potential medical emergency? 22 Α 23 A Yes. 23 Q And I already asked you this a little bit, so I Okay. And you would agree with me paying 24 apologize if I am repeating myself, but tell me the 25 attention to those sorts of things are important for the 25 training, if any, the detention staff at the jail had Page 13 Page 11  ${f 1}$  regarding recognizing and responding to medical health 1 detention officer. Correct? A Yes. 2 emergencies, Q If a particular detention officer, let's say, A Well, you know, you're taught, you know, to 4 is doing their sight checks, sees an inmate with a 4 observe someone. If they look to be in medical distress, 5 potentially serious medical problem, and there's a shift 5 you notify medical. You know, that could be the color of 6 change on whoever the rover is, is it your understanding, 6 the skin. That could be their behavior. It could be a 7 does the sheriff's office expect there to be some type of number of things. exchange of information there or --Q In your experience at the jail, did any of the detention staff anywhere along the chain, did they have any A Yes. Q Okay. And why is that? decision-making process regarding referrals or transports 10 A Well, you always do pass-on to alert the next 11 to outside medical facilities for inmates? 12 shift on possible situations that might come up. A No. 12 13 Q Now, as of 2019, your time there at the jail, Q So in your understanding of how the jail 14 did the detention staff have any training on detainee or 14 operated, the County expected all of that decision making 15 inmate medical care? 15 to be on the medical provider. Correct? A Just your basic CPR and First Aid. A Unless it was a life-threatening medical 16 16 17 Q Okay. Anything else other than basic CPR and 17 emergency. Then the shift commander would usually go ahead 18 First Aid? 18 and make that call. 19 A How to use an AFD. That was about it. Q So you would agree with me there's some 19 Q Did the detention staff ever get any training 20 situations where the detention staff can play a role on the 20 21 from the County about when to call 911, if ever, regarding 21 transfer process. Correct? 22 an emergency medical situation? 22 A The shift commander, Yes. 23 A Detention staff doesn't do that. The shift Q And in order for that to happen, it's my 23 24 commander would do that. 24 understanding there needs to be some type of reporting up

25 the chain of command. Right?

Page 14 Page 16 Α 1 refresh your memory. Right? 0 And you said "the shift commander." Is that 2 A Correct. 3 right? Q Okay. You were interviewed by Sergeant A Yes. What would happen in a medical emergency 4 Jennifer Peek as a part of this investigation, Correct? -- say someone is not breathing. The shift commander would A I guess so, I don't remember. 6 go ahead and call EMSA. But then after making that call Q Okay. But after reviewing page 11 -- OSCO 127 7 and getting it rolling, you would immediately call the duty 7 is the Bates -- of this investigation, you don't have any 8 officer and let them know what's going on. 8 reason to doubt the context of your interview portion? If it wasn't a life-threatening emergency and 10 the shift commander felt that this inmate needed to go out Q Okay. Did reviewing any of this, of your 11 but medical didn't, you would relay it up to your captain. 11 interview here with Sergeant Peek, did this refresh your 12 And wherever it goes from there, it goes. 12 recollection at all about this night? Do you remember 13 Q So if there is either a disagreement with 13 this? 14 medical or medical is maybe not doing their job, there is 14 A No, I do not. 15 still a process, as you understand, for it to go up the 15 Q Okay. Before August 2019 at the jail, do you 16 chain of command on the detention staff side, Right? 16 recall -- and I am not just talking about you. I am not 17 A Yes. 17 picking on you or anything. Okay. And so it wouldn't be accurate to say, But do you recall any patterns or instances 18 19 you know, the detention staff, as long as they just make 19 where detention officers weren't doing their sight checks 20 the medical staff known of an emergency, the detention 20 properly? 21 staff isn't necessarily done there. They just can't wash 21 A Absolutely. 22 their hands in that scenario. Right? 22 Q Okay. Tell me a little more about that. 23 23 A The jail was extremely shorthanded. And there Q And just to be clear -- I know what you're 24 were probably a lot of sight checks missed, whether it be 25 saying. Just to make sure -- we've got a written 25 due to shorthandedness, some -- sometimes there were Page 17 Page 15 1 transcript and there's a -- make sure we don't have a 1 officers assigned one officer per two floors. It just 2 double negative there. 2 wasn't possible to get them done in a timely fashion and You would agree with me that the detention 3 feed and pass meds and do everything else. And then there 4 staff just can't call medical and wash their hands of the 4 were occasions where officers just neglected their duties. 5 situation. Correct? O And was that a concern that you had about how A That's correct. 6 things were being run at the jail? Q Okay, Thank you. A Absolutely. Because if, in some situations, it's apparent Q And from your experience at the jail going all 9 that medical is not doing their job or neglecting an 9 the way back to the nineties, could that shorthandedness 10 inmate, there is still a duty to make sure that inmate gets 10 and pattern of not doing sight checks properly, could that 11 taken care of. Right? 11 impact the safety of certain inmates? 12 A Yes. 12 A Absolutely. 13 (Exhibit 1 marked for identification) 13 Q And did you still even have those concerns 14 Q (By Mr. Tabor) I am introducing Exhibit 1 to 14 about those things when you left the sheriff's department your deposition. I think you've already got a copy here. 15 in December of 2019? 16 This is the investigative report of the death of 16 A Even more so, because we were extremely 17 Mr. Clinton. 17 shorthanded then. 18 Now, I know you have slept quite a bit since 18 Q Okay. And so would you say, over your time 19 this, since October of 2019, but have you given a general 19 there at the jail, you had become increasingly concerned 20 look-over of this investigation? 20 about the -- those matters? 21 A Of my portion. Yes. 21 A Not only sight checks but the safety of the 22 Okay. And what page are you on there? 22 staff and everyone there. 23 Page 11, very top. 23 Q During your career there at the jail, did And I believe you mentioned you Googled 24 anyone raise concerns about improper sight checks or 25 Mr. Clinton's death before coming in here, to try to 25 understaffing?

Page: 5 (14 - 17)

Page: 6 (18 - 21)

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1	A Yes.	je 18	1	Page 20 During your time working at the jail, did you
2	Q Okay. Tell me what you remember about that.		2	ever have any concerns about medical needs of inmates being
3	A Well, I mean, I did, as lieutenant, to my		3	met?
4	captains almost weekly. Other lieutenants would complain		4	A Oh, yeah.
5	about it. The captains knew that we were shorthanded.		5	Q Tell me about that a little bit.
6	They knew the sight checks weren't getting done properly.		6	A Just some of the nurses up there just didn't
7	And it just was going on repeat after repeat.		7	seem like they cared. They didn't seem like they believed
8	Q And then, from your perspective, that never			anything the inmates said. And I am and I know that
9	really got better? In fact, it sounds like, from your			there were inmates that played the system. But sometimes,
10	perspective, it got worse. Right?			you know, you just it just didn't it didn't add up.
11	A Yep. Yes. Sorry.		11	Q Tell me your thoughts about the time at your
12	Q Kind of on this topic of things in your career		12	career at the jail with Turnkey Health.
13	that troubled you about the jail and how it was being run	,	13	A I think County went with the lowest bidder and
1	tell me anything else that you voiced your concerns abou	-		a lot of the nurses there shouldn't be in the nursing
1	or you thought were not being done right.			profession.
16	A Okay. There was a particular instance where my		16	Q Were there during your tenure there, when
17				Turnkey was contracted, were there ever concerns raised
	female officer for abandoning her post, which was medical			about the quality of care being given by Turnkey?
	13 Adam, which had suicidal females, pregnant females, and		19	A Yes.
-	mental health females in there, because she had class to go		20	Q Okay. Tell me what you remember about that.
1	to. And she had an evening class twice a week for 16		21	A The inmates complained about it constantly.
	weeks, I believe it was.			And, you know, even even me as lieutenant, if you put in
23	And Lieutenant Chairs had let her off every			a word at the clinic, "Hey, can you guys see this person?"
	single time except for one time she couldn't because we		24	"Oh, they were seen earlier in the day. We
1	were too shorthanded. And the officer basically said, "I			don't need to see them."
100		e 19	23	
1	am leaving anyways," and left and sent her a text message	,C 15	1	Q So it sounds like, to me, over the years on
2	saying something to the effect of "fuck Oklahoma County.		2	some of the concerns you voiced, that you spoke up about
3	It's not worth me staying. I am going to my class." And		3	these things. Right?
4	she left those inmates without anyone in there, and they		4	A Yes.
5	were 15-minute sight checks.		5	Q Do you feel that the County took your concerns
6	And Lieutenant Chairs wrote her up and look it		6	seriously and addressed them?
7	to Captain Sedbrook. And nothing was being done about it.		7	A My captains, not so much.
8	About two weeks later, I talked to Captain Sedbrook about		8	MR. TABOR: Okay. I will pass the witness at
9	it, confronted him about it, you know, because he and		9	this time.
10	asked him what was being done. And he said, "Oh, that's on		10	MR. HEGGY: I have no questions.
11	the sheriff's desk right now. She's going to be		11	MR. TABOR: Mr. Hendershott, you have a right
12	terminated."		12	to get your deposition transcript, the written transcript,
13	I said, "So that report is on the sheriff's		13	that can be sent to you and you can review it and correct
14	desk right now?"		14	it if there's any transcription errors, or you have the
15	He said, "Yes."		15	right to waive that process and just stand on what's been
16	I said, "Then why is it right there on your		16	transcribed today. It's your decision.
17	desk?"		17	THE WITNESS: I will stand.
18	He looked me in the eyes and got all flustered		18	MR. TABOR: Okay. So you will waive reading
19	and stated, "You know, we can't just write everyone up for		19	and signing?
20	making a mistake. We have to retain the officers we have."		20	THE WITNESS: Yes.
21	And I said, "Well, that's the problem. You		21	MR. TABOR: Okay. Thank you, sir.
22	guys don't have our back." And then the next day I came		22	(Deposition concluded at 2:26 p.m. and witness excused
23	in, I was transferred back to graveyards.		23	after 24 minutes on the record)
24	Q You were what?	;	24	
1				

1	CERTIFICATE
2	STATE OF OKLAHOMA )
3	) SS: COUNTY OF OKLAHOMA )
4	
5	I, Lori Johnston Harstad, a Certified Shorthand
6	Reporter for the State of Oklahoma, certify that
7	Christopher Hendershott was by me sworn to testify the
8	truth; that the deposition was taken by me in stenotype and
9	thereafter transcribed by computer and is a true and
10	correct transcript of the testimony of the witness; that
11	the deposition was taken by me on March 15, 2023, at
12	2:02 p.m., at 1601 36th Avenue NW, Norman, Oklahoma; that I
13	am not a relative, employee, attorney or counsel to any
14	party in this case or a relative or employee to any counsel
15	in this case or otherwise financially interested in this
16	action; and that the witness waived his right to review the
17	deposition transcript prior to its filing.
18	Witness my hand and seal of office on this 17th day
19	of March, 2023.
20	
21	P. H. Marie
22	For itural
23	Lori Johnston Harstad, CSR Oklahoma Certified Shorthand Reporter
24	Certificate Number 1726 Expiration Date: December 31, 2023
25	Oklahoma CSR #01726 My Commission Expires 12/31/2022